

Department of Labor
to reorganize pg 4



Enjoy Aruba's
57th carnival

Prime Minister puts accent
on Community Work pg 3

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THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

The "Happy Island Girls" are home again!



Last year's picture becomes this year's tee shirt art



Rosalie, Lynne, Marlene, Jeanne, Audrey and Debbie

Veteran island visitors Marlene Linsky, Lynne Niebling, Audrey Houser, Debbie Rohe, and sisters Rosalie Licitra and Joanne Rohe are back on Aruba again, showing off their tee shirt art, which immortalizes their annual photo to appear in Aruba's newspapers, where they announced themselves to be "The Happy Island

Girls."

Their annual visit to the timeshares they own in the Renaissance Beach Suites is the highlight of their year; it could not pass without them displaying to the public their new uniforms - it has become a tradition. Most of them stay at least one month on the island, some of them twice a

year.

"The word "home" makes most people think of strong bonds, warmth and security," comments Debbie, "this is how our group, which we call "Happy Island Girls," thinks of their annual February trip to Aruba; we are returning home!"

by Rosalie Klein

Dates and rules to reserve a place for Carnaval 2011 parades

ORANJESTAD – The Aruba Police Force announces the community in general the dates and ways to reserve a space along the different Carnival parade routes.

SAN NICOLAS:

For the Grand Parade: Citizens can place chairs and benches on Friday, March 4, 2011

ORANJESTAD:

For the Lighting Parade and Children Parade: Citizens can place chairs and benches on Friday, February 25, 2011; they can remain along the route until after the Children's Parade on February 27.

For the Grand Parade: Citizens can place chairs and benches along the route on March 5, 2011.

Take good notice: It is only allowed to place chairs and benches and they have to be removed after the parade and the spot must be cleaned afterwards.

It is not allowed use to place blocks, ropes, wooden sticks, etc; they will be removed during control.

The Police Force will be controlling the routes during the whole Carnival season to make sure that nobody breaks the rules.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Kadhafi loses control of swathes of east Libya



TOBRUK, Libya (AFP) — Moamer Kadhafi's regime has lost vast swathes of Libya's east to an insurrection, it emerged yesterday, as the West prepared for a mass exodus from a "bloodbath" in the north African country.

With condemnation of the

brutal crackdown growing and foreigners fleeing the oil-rich country, Kadhafi was increasingly isolated on the international scene after reports hundreds of civilians were killed in the backlash by his forces.

Europe moved to isolate the Kadhafi regime, readying sanctions and warning it would hold to account those responsible for the bloody crackdown.

At London's Gatwick airport, foreigners who escaped said Tripoli had descended into war-like scenes. "Last night I've never been so scared in all my life," said Jane Macefield, an expatriate teacher.

On the ground, Kadhafi opponents appeared firmly in control of Libya's coastal east, from the Egyptian border through to the cities of Tobruk and Benghazi, with government soldiers switching sides to join the uprising.

Tobruk is located about 100 kilometres (62 miles) from the border and Benghazi, the epicentre of protests, some 400 kilometres further west -- both in the Cyrenaica region.

Journalists in Cyrenaica saw regime opponents -- many of them armed -- all along the highway that hugs the Mediterranean coast.

Soldiers were declaring

their support for the uprising, residents said, but the regime asserted it was still in control via a text message sent on the Libyan national mobile telephone network. For his part, Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Khaim said Al-Qaeda had set up an Islamic emirate in Derna, between Tobruk and Benghazi, headed by a former Guantanamo Bay inmate.

But residents in the city told reporters there was no substance to the reports, which they said the Libyan government was sowing to "scare Europe."

Proclaiming the support of the people, Kadhafi ordered the army and police to crush the revolt against his rule.

Libya's regime said 300 people had been killed in the protests, but the International Federation for Human Rights (IFHR) said that at least 640 had died.

The turmoil in Libya, which has Africa's largest oil reserves, is the continent's fourth-largest producer and where many Western oil companies have suspended operations, has sent crude prices soaring.

Oil prices hit multi-year highs amid Libya unrest

NEW YORK (AFP) — Oil sold in New York crossed the symbolic \$100 a barrel level yesterday, hitting prices not seen since 2008, amid fears over supplies from Libya.

As traders panicked that political chaos could spread further in the Middle East, the main US contract reached \$100 a barrel for the first time since October 2008.

London's main Brent contract -- which is more sensitive to Middle East unrest thanks to Europe's greater dependence on oil from the region -- surged past \$110 a barrel.

With foreign oil workers fleeing Libya and rumors

swirling that Moamer Kadhafi may sabotage pipelines, analysts raised the prospect of a bonafide oil crisis.

"If Libya and Algeria were to halt oil production together, prices could peak above US\$220," Michael Lo of Nomura told clients in a note.

He warned that the oil cartel OPEC could see its production capacity cut to 2.1 million barrels a day, levels seen during the 1990-91 Gulf War, when prices rose to \$147 a barrel.

With US prices up by around \$10 in the last two days, consumers can expect to see higher prices at the pump

soon.

The recent increases could translate into a 25 cent increase in gasoline prices at the pump, based on averages produced by Moody's.

With much of the global economy still ailing from the financial crisis, many fear such sharply higher oil prices could smother the recovery and send many nations spiraling back into recession.

"This is nowhere near over. We are watching a 'sea change' occur among one tenth of the world's population," said David Kotok of Cumberland Advisors, quoting research from Naroff Economic Advisors.



GREECE, Athens : A policeman is seen in flames as he tries to escape after a petrol bomb was thrown at him during riots in front of the parliament in Athens yesterday. Greece is hit with another general strike against austerity as Prime Minister George Papandreou seeks to convince the cash-strapped country's eurozone partners to extend the repayment of a massive rescue loan. AFP PHOTO

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Dutch Caribbean Libraries to Hold Seminar



The third seminar for library and information specialists will be held during the last week of February in Curacao by the Dutch Caribbean Libraries organization. On the opening day, February 23rd all partners and interested parties are invited for an interesting and relevant program to be held in the auditorium of the Central Bank.

The program for the first day of the seminar includes two keynote addresses by Jesus Lau and Brooke Wooldridge. Mr. Lau is the president of the International Federation of Libraries (FLA), and Mrs. Wooldridge is the coordinator of Biblioteca Digital Caribeense (dlOC). Biblioteca Digital Caribeense is a subsidized program which provides free access to the collections of various libraries and archives in the Caribbean. They will provide information on the ability to obtain digital information and about the cooperation that exists in the digital field. The day will be concluded with a social event. On the second day they have two workshops planned for management and staff, and finally a social event to conclude the day. On the third day there will be several workshops with several editors invited.

The entire event was organized by the "Dutch Caribbean Libraries," an organization of management and information professionals beaming with life and growing steadily.

The goal of the Dutch

Caribbean Libraries is to function as a platform to develop her members into professionals through preparation and knowledge exchange. This seminar was made possible through the financial support of KulturA-Fonds.

We cannot imagine living without the internet in today's world. Developing countries, of which we are a part, cannot distance themselves and stand on the sidelines with respect to matters of importance such as digital information and digital alphabetization.

Educators and information professionals have been cognizant for years of the vital importance of the matter of digitalization, and of the opportunities that the internet makes available for development and formation.

Obviously, we recognize that not all children are prepared and know how to deal, in a responsible fashion, with the changes that digitalization and the internet has brought. At the same time we acknowledge that not everyone in our community has the same opportunity to reap the benefits that the digital world has to offer.

For this reason, a special appeal is made to everyone involved in education and information to join forces for the challenges facing us in the development of digitalization. Attendance on the opening day of the seminar is gratis once prior registration has been made. For more information, please contact: seminardcl2010@gmail.com.

Prime Minister puts accent on Community Work

ORANJESTAD -- Prime Minister Eman recently held an interesting and productive meeting with key players in our community involved in the 'BO Bario' project. One of the important aspects of the Eman administration is the involvement of inhabitants in the barrios in community work. Eman invited those key persons who in one form or the other are either directly or indirectly involved in the community who could assist the government in executing the various tasks in the barrios.

During this meeting the Prime Minister remarked that he is doing his utmost not to lose contact with the people even though he does have a busy agenda.

The minister is convinced that it is important for him to keep abreast of what is happening in the community, for it is in this way they can work together with the key players on solutions. By key players he



referred to the various groups working on the social platform, justice, education and religion. Many of those invited voiced many of their concerns to the minister, to which he offered his understanding and shared his ideas.

Issues such as materialism, external influences on our children were among some of the topics raised. One proposition

presented was to introduce innovative methods of awareness to help our people make better decisions.

Another item raised was the issue of priorities. People are not capable; it would seem, to prioritize their lives. Following the meeting, the Prime Minister offered lunch to the group as a gesture of his appreciation and gratitude for their input and support to the community of Aruba. They agreed that every effort would be made to work together on solving the problems in our country. Present at the event were: Mrs. Stella Chan-Tromp, headmaster of the Rosario College, Mrs. Eduardo and Mrs. Dora Croes, representatives of Social Assistance group of the Paradera Parish, Mrs. Gracita Rombley, general coordinator of the White Yellow Cross, Mrs. Rosita Ellis, representative of the Esso Heights bario, and Mr. Reginald de Palm, Bario Police for the Wayaca, Primavera and Meiveld districts.



Mr. Aruba Winter Nationals raises \$4,900 for JEGS Foundation

DELAWARE--: For the past five years, a dedicated group of close drag racing friends have gathered for the Mr. Aruba Winter Nationals in an effort to raise money for the JEGS Foundation Racing For Cancer Research project. Despite extremely cold temperatures, the group recently gathered for the 2011 running of the event with a total amount of \$4,900 raised to combat cancer.

Mike DeChicco and Jane Graebner, aka Mr. and Mrs. Aruba, were especially motivated this year as their longtime crew chief, Jim Thompson, has just become another cancer survivor, reminding everyone the disease does not discriminate.

In all, 41 drag racers filled out the field, with buybacks offered to any driver eliminated in the first round. This was especially good news for Doug Thompson as his buy-back investment took him all the way to the final round of the Gambler's Race, where he dismissed Chip "the Secret Weapon" Foust with a perfect .000-second reaction time. There was a total purse of \$1,096 split between the two men, and both immediately donated half their winnings to the JEGS Foundation.

The "Race For The Wires" sponsored by Fire Core Ignition was won by longtime foot-braker John McClellan over a very game Matt Flowers, who refused to use a

delay box.

Mike "50/50" Harbolt continues to be the luckiest racer in the group, winning the 50/50 raffle for the third time in the last four years and once again donating his share of \$165. Harbolt's luck carried over to the Hemi Challenge, where he walked away with the top prize -- a custom pair of New Balance shoes, donated by Comfort Fit Shoes.

Other top donators included Doug Duell, Dean Bresler, Mark Blue, Steve Kuklica, and Dennis and Durina McCarty.

In five years, the Mr. Aruba Winter Nationals has donated \$18,000 to the JEGS Foundation Racing For Cancer Research project.

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Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa on Aruba received another Gold Certificate Recognition!



Boutique hotel Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, located on the most beautiful white beach and turquoise blue sea, preserve a safe and healthy environment for the island of Aruba, its people and visiting guests. Through teamwork, commitment and enthusiasm management and staff of Manchebo build environmental awareness and follow the Green Globe standards, laws, regulations and reduce, reuse, & recycle throughout the property to prevent and control pollution while supporting the local merchants.

In its recognition to deliver continuous environmental improvements and to secure a sustainable future for the business Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa has been certified as meeting the requirements of the Green Globe Certification Gold Standard.

The recently renovated deluxe guest rooms feature lots of green best practices, including:

- * All of the deluxe guest room doors are insulated by weather strips and the patio sliding doors are tinted with double glass resulting in the air-conditioner operating more efficiently.

- * The guest room amenities like soaps and shampoos are vegetable based and the packaging is made out of 100% compostable bottles. The boxes are made of recycled paper and printed with vegetable inks.

- * The towel and linen re-use program allows them to save water and electricity.

- * Glass bottles, aluminum cans and paper are collected by the room attendants and are recycled.

- * Low watt warm light fluorescent light bulbs are installed in all light fixtures.

- * Dual flush toilets are installed in order to save water (1.6 Gallon / 0.8 Gallon).

- * Guests are encouraged to participate in the monthly island-wide beach clean-up every 3rd Wednesday of the month.

To review other green best practices at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa please have a look at the Environmental and Eco-Friendly Best Practices sheet.

The resort's Green Team continues to support the environment and the community through means of sponsorship, supporting of local scholarships, charitable fundraising, local school support, contributions to the Aruba Reef Care Project, Annual Coastal Clean-ups and the monthly Sponsor-A-Mile!

Department of Labor to reorganize



Stakeholders in Aruba's labor market

Aruba's Labor Department, which is located in the upper levels of the DA building in Oranjestad, is reorganizing to provide more efficient service for employers and those seeking work. A meeting was conducted at government offices in Palm Beach on Tuesday afternoon, February 22, to discuss the establishment of a specialized branch in the Noord area which will specifically house the administration of the Job Center, Manpower and the Labor Department's role in the issuance of work permits.

The meeting was dedicated to the stakeholders of the job market, including representatives of labor unions such as FTA, the Aruba Trade & Industrial Association (ATIA) and the San Nicolas Business Association, as well as Martin Balkestein, Director of the Central Bureau of Statistics, presenting a broad spectrum of organizations dedicated to both employers and employees.

The meeting was facilitated by Sherwin Latina of the Pyxis Advisory Group, which has a team in place to assist in the transition to a dedicated job placement



Sherwin Latina of Pyxis Advisory facilitates

branch of the DAO.

"Our concern is devising an efficient system to allow the connection between those looking for jobs and those needing qualified employees. Our aim it to see that both sides of the market are satisfied and the program can help place the right person in the right job, thus satisfying the requirements of both industry and the work force," they explained.

Minister of Tourism, Transport, and Labor, Otmar Oduber, opened the meeting, explaining a study revealed the necessity of creating such a new department for optimal deployment of this branch of the DAO; however the input and participation of the stakeholders is needed to assure the success of such a department.

By Rosalie Klein

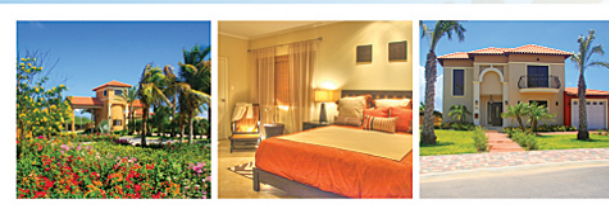
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Island visitors remedy a need for sanitation facilities at Arashi Beach



Pat and Micky Auer and the beach they love

Mickey and Pat Auer of Chicago started coming to Aruba every year over 20 years ago, eventually choosing to rent condos and homes during their extended stays, usually now at least 5 weeks during the winter. About 10 years ago, they discovered the charms of Arashi Beach, where they were away from the hustle and bustle of the large resorts and could mix and mingle with the locals, as it is a popular spot on the weekends. They usually bring their cooler and spend the entire day there with friends.

Mickey and Pat were thrilled when they saw the improvements made to the area beginning about 4 years ago. They even had an opportunity to chat with island dignitaries at the time during a media event showing off the renovations; at that time, they were told that much needed sanitation facilities would also be a part of the completed improvements.

Unfortunately, when elections result in a complete change of government, a number of worthwhile projects of the former administration are often overlooked while a new government and new department heads are trying to establish programs they think are necessary, and are not familiar with all the details of projects begun by their predecessors.

"We are certain this is the case," commented Mickey and Pat at their dismay at seeing the promised sanitation facilities at Arashi not yet installed when they returned to Aruba this year. After a few weeks of enjoying the beach, the inconvenience for Pat and all the ladies became acute, so Mickey decided to take matters into his own hands. He discussed the matter with the company that handles the waste management at their rented unit in Palma Real and came to an agreement; Mickey would pay the \$230 weekly fee for them to bring two portable toilets to Arashi Beach daily during the re-



Providing a convenience for all who share the beach

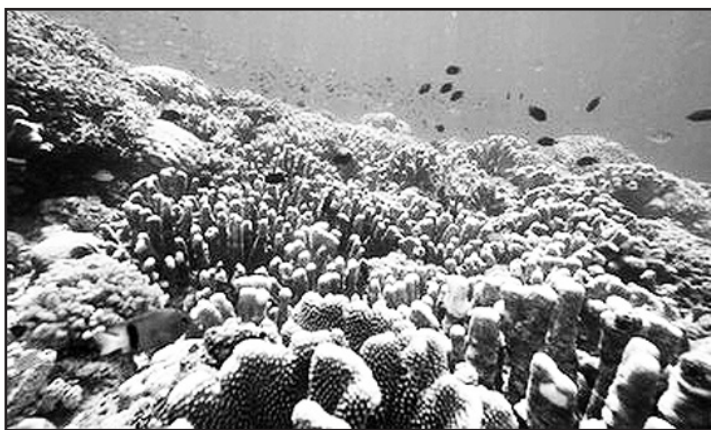
mainder of the Auer's stay. "What a relief this has been for not only us," exclaimed Pat. Their generous gesture is appreciated by all who frequent the beach, as well as tour buses and jeep safaris that take people to the California Lighthouse. "We sincerely hope the new government takes note of how necessary this sort of facility

is for the area that a tourist took it upon himself to provide it," they explain. "Everything they have done for it up until now is terrific; they just need to provide this one finishing touch for Arashi beach renovations to be complete. We hope they do it soon."

by Rosalie Klein

Sci-Tech

World's coral reefs could be gone by 2050, study



WASHINGTON (AFP) - The world's coral reefs could be wiped out by 2050 unless urgent action is taken to stop threats posed to the "rain-forests of the sea" by everything from overfishing to global warming, a report warned Wednesday.

Warmer seas caused by global warming; ocean acidification blamed on carbon dioxide pollution; shipping, overfishing, coastal development and agricultural runoff all pose a threat to coral reefs, which hundreds of millions of people depend on for a living, says the report.

"If left unchecked, more than 90 percent of reefs will be threatened by 2030 and nearly all reefs will be at risk by 2050," says the "Reefs at Risk Revisited" report, which was compiled by dozens of research, conservation and

educational groups led by the World Resources Institute think-tank.

"Local pressures" on reefs, including overfishing, coastal development and pollution, pose the most immediate and direct threats to the world's reefs, threatening more than 60 percent of the colorful sea "forests" in the short term, the report says.

The impacts of climate change -- a "global threat" to reefs -- is compounding the local pressures.

"Warming seas have already caused widespread damage to reefs, with high temperatures driving a stress response called coral bleaching, where corals lose their colorful symbiotic algae, exposing their white skeletons," the report says.

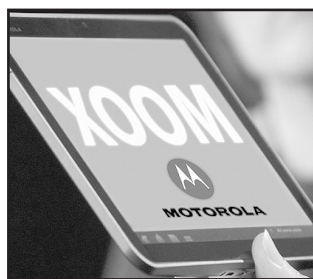
"In addition, increasing carbon dioxide (CO2) emis-

sions are slowly causing the world's oceans to become more acidic. Ocean acidification reduces coral growth rates and, if unchecked, could reduce their ability to maintain their physical structure."

Losing the coral reefs would deprive millions of coastal dwellers of a key source of food and income, and would deprive shorelines of protection from storms, the report says.

There would be fewer nurseries for commercial fish species, and less sand on tourist beaches if coral reefs are destroyed.

Xoom tablet debuts with \$800 price



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - US telecom titan Verizon today will begin selling Motorola Mobility's hotly awaited "Xoom" tablet computer at a price close to that of a top-of-the-line iPad.

Xoom will be the first tablet on the market powered by "Honeycomb" software crafted specifically for such devices by Internet powerhouse Google and has been heralded as a viable challenger for Apple's market-ruling iPad.

Xoom will be sold for \$800, but the price will be trimmed to \$600 for those who opt for two-year service contracts with Verizon.

The six iPad models range in price from \$500 to \$830 with the three higher-priced models having 3G mobile telecom connection capabilities while the three less costly tablets only link to the Internet using Wi-Fi at hot spots.

With a 10.1-inch (25.6-centimeter) screen, the Xoom is about the same size as Apple's iPad, which hit stores in April and has other leading technology companies around the world scrambling to catch up.

Xoom also features a front-facing 2-megapixel camera for video chats and a rear-facing 5-megapixel camera that captures video.

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10 percent global rise in biotech crops: study

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Global plantings of genetically modified crops increased 10 percent in 2010 compared to the prior year, according to a study which has been released by an organization that promotes crop biotechnology.

Last year, 15.4 million farmers in 29 countries planted genetically modified crops on 148 million hectares (366 million acres), said the report from the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA).

The group's chairman, Clive James, said a rapid in-

crease since 1996 shows that "biotech crops are the fastest-adopted crop technology in the history of modern agriculture."

The United States remained the largest biotech crop growing country with nearly 67 million hectares (165 million acres) of soybeans, corn and cotton.

Brazil was second with 25 million hectares (62 million acres), an increase of 19 percent over 2009.

Developing countries grew 48 percent of biotech crops last year, the report said, adding that they will surpass industrialized countries by 2015.

Cellphone use yields more 'active' brain scan: study



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Cellphone use appeared to measurably increase brain activity in dozens of test subjects in a new study, though it failed to resolve a debate over whether the devices pose health risks.

The study, was carried out by scientists at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

The research, conducted over the entire 2009 calendar

year, aimed to determine whether cellphone exposure affects regional activity in the brain.

Cellphones were first placed on the left and right ears of 47 test subjects. Two PET-scan brain images were then taken: the first with the right cell phone activated but the sound muted for 50 minutes, and the second with both cell phones turned off.

Researchers said they found increased brain glucose metabolism -- a marker of brain activity -- in the region closest to the phone antenna of the activated cellphone, but not in the de-activated one.

But they acknowledged that the clinical significance of the findings remained unclear and that further research was necessary to determine whether the electromagnetic fields emanating from cell phones could affect human brain function with "long-term harmful consequences."



A poisonous cane toad sitting on a keeper's hand at the Taronga Zoo in Sydney. For three-quarters of a century, the cane toad has rampaged around northeastern Australia, but scientists hope the toxic terror may at last be stopped in its tracks. A native of Central America, the cane toad (*Bufo marinus*) was introduced to Australia in 1935 to kill beetles devastating sugar-cane crops, only to become a pest in its own right. But a new investigation says that the toad -- up to 25 centimetres (10 inches) long and two kilos (4.4 pounds) in weight -- has an Achilles' heel. Unlike indigenous amphibians that have adapted to arid conditions, the imported anuran desperately needs access to nearby standing water in order to survive. Placing small fencing around man-made sources such as irrigation ditches and troughs is enough to cause the toad to die of dehydration and stop its advance, says the study.



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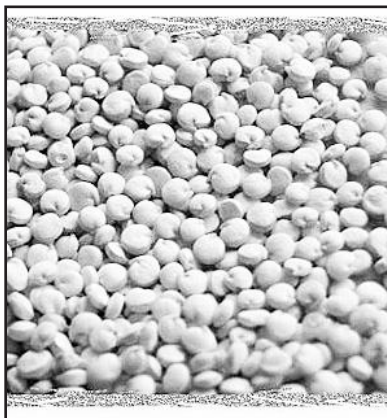
COTIMBORA, Bolivia (AFP) – Grown high in the Andes for millennia, a grain the Incas so prized they deemed it sacred has become a global star and is now being touted as the health food of the future.

Quinoa, a good crop for harsher climes as it prospers in semi-arid conditions and high altitudes where rivals struggle, has nutrition experts salivating as it is chock full of protein and essential amino acids.

"We don't ever get sick, because we eat the quinoa we got from our ancestors," Agustin Flores, a third-generation farmer in Bolivia's southern highlands, told AFP with a touch of salesmanship and a hesitant smile.

Quinoa was originally scorned by Spanish colonizers. At one point its cultivation was banned due to its use in what Spaniards saw as "pagan" ceremonies and the Incas were forced to grow wheat instead.

Known as chisaya mama or "mother of all grains", it was so revered by the Incas that the emperor would traditionally sow the first seeds of the sea-



quinoa -- a grain the Incas so prized

son with special tools made out of gold.

But in the past 10-15 years, quinoa (*Chenopodium quinoa*) has made major inroads in Western cuisine and is often used as a substitute for pastas, risottos, gratins and taboules.

Ruben Ramiro Miranda, a researcher at the University of Oruro, also sang the praises of the grain which is related to highly nutritional amaranth.

Quinoa can prevent inflammation and hypertension and helps "in the development of neurons, as well as healthy breast milk," he told AFP.

Bolivia, South America's poorest country with around 10 percent arable land, was the world's top producer of quinoa in 2009 with 30,000 tonnes or 46 percent of global supply. Cotimbora, at 3,700 meters (12,100 feet), is the heart of quinoa country.

In Bolivia's Cotimbora-Challapata region, progress spawned by the grain's boom is plain to see. Export prices have almost tripled since 2007, now fetching 2,900 dollars a ton.

No rain in November and December in Bolivia's highlands has left as much as 45 percent of the 2010-2011 crop, due in April-May, in danger, producers say.

It may be a bad year for the crop, to be sure. But the surface area being planted in the grain has surged, a Franco-Bolivian study found. The IRD study also found that more quinoa was being planted on land at risk of freezes, and where animals once grazed, increasing potential land disputes. Quinoa in its natural state has a coating of bitter-tasting saponins, making it unpalatable prior to processing.

Ingredient in cannabis restores taste for cancer patients



Medical marijuana

PARIS, France (AFP) – The ingredient that gives cannabis its "high" and famously whets the appetite can help cancer patients recover lost pleasure in food, according to a study.

Researchers in Canada enrolled 21 patients who had been treated with chemotherapy for advanced cancer, and gave them either capsules containing THC -- delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, the psychoactive chemical in cannabis -- or dummy lookalike pills.

The volunteers took the tablets for 18 days, and were asked to fill in questionnaires.

Seventy-three percent of those who took the THC reported an increased liking for food and 55 percent said the medication "made food taste better". In the placebo group,

these figures were only 30 percent and 10 percent.

Both groups consumed roughly the same total of calories, but the THC patients said they ate more protein than before the start of the experiment and enjoyed savoury foods more. The THC-takers also reported better quality of sleep and relaxation than in the placebo group.

The experiment is small scale but the first to explore the touted qualities of THC through random selection of volunteers and use of a "control" group by which to make a comparison.

Lead investigator Wendy Wismer, an associate professor at the University of Alberta, said the findings were important because cancer, or its treatment, can cripple appetite and lead to dangerous weight loss. Many cancer patients, for instance, complain that meat smells and tastes unpleasant, so they eat less of it.

Wismer said that doctors should consider THC treatment for cancer patients suffering from loss of taste, smell and appetite.

ARUBA CARNIVAL

Minister Dr. Richard Visser advocates Carnival parades as an excellent form of exercise



Spectators can expect to see Aruba's Minister of Public Health, Sport and Drugs, Dr. Richard Visser, dancing through the streets during a number of Carnival 57 parades

"Any kind of moving equals exercise," explained Minister Dr. Visser. "This is precisely our vision and what our management is promoting." He applauds the idea of Royal Carnival Group to participate in San Nicolas Lighting Parade together with Kevin James; their theme: "Victory Team."

"Victory Team" symbolizes the three prizes our athletes brought home last year, bronze, silver and gold, and those colors will dominate Royal Carnival Group's participation in both the San Nicolas and Oranjestad Lighting Parades, which will be animated by music from popular band NBO.

"This is how we honored our athletes. They are the ones who keep Aruba's name in high regard abroad, with perseverance and sacrifice. Additionally, they also promote sports among the community," the minister concluded.

Minister Dr. Visser will also be in the parades; in this way he wished to demonstrate that health and sports unite in celebrating Aruba's Carnival. "Besides giving honor to our athletes, and enhancing events, we also promote exercise by participating in the parades."

During Carnival 57th Cool Aruba is ON with Panasonic Batteries



During this Carnival season Cool Aruba FM is busy taking pictures of all activities and parades, which they post on their website. According to Cool

Aruba, this is possible because they are using the most powerful known battery, Panasonic, according to the Guinness World Records! The AA Alka-

line Panasonic Evoia is a long lasting battery designed for use in high drain devices, particularly digital cameras among others.

It has been proven repeatedly that alkaline technology provides better value for money than traditional zinc chloride batteries, especially with more demanding applications.

Anyone wishing for their picture taken, just look for the professional photographers of Cool Aruba; they will be sporting Panasonic batteries tee-shirts.

Cool Aruba invites everyone to visit its website www.coolaruba.com to get a peek of all the pictures taken during Carnival 57 with Panasonic Batteries.

Carnaval 57 Queen Levi Thode honored by EPI School



Levi Thode took the title of supreme Carnival Queen 57 on Saturday, February 19 as the official entry for her alma mater, the EPI College middle school. During school break the following Monday, the students, faculty and administration gathered in the EPI food court to pay tribute to Aruba's lovely young queen who thrilled her supporters with a winning performance. They all expressed their enormous pride with words of praise for her presentation at the Aruba Entertainment Center during the pageant and presented her with a beautiful bouquet.



Carnaval Schedule

Main Events 2011

FRI-FEBR 25 7:00 P.M.	CARNAVAL SHOW DOWN LATIN NIGHT PLACE: ARUBA ENTERTAINMENT CENTER
SAT. FEBR 26 1:00 P.M.	CHILDREN CARNAVAL PARADE NOORD ROUTE: FROM BUBALI FIELD STRAIGHT TO CENTRO DI BARIO NOORD
8:00 P.M.	ARUBA LIGHTING PARADE
SUN. FEBR 27 1:00 P.M.	GRAND CHILDREN PARADE ORANEJSTAD
TUE. MAR 1 7:00 P.M.	TOURIST NIGHT - STEELBAND AND COSTUME SHOW PLACE: PENDING
THU. MAR 3 8:00 P.M.	PARADA DI LUZ SAN NICOLAS
FRI. MAR 4 10:00 A.M. 5:00 P.M. 8:00 P.M. 8:00 P.M.	JUMP-UP ESCOLAR - SAN NICOLAS COSTUME FESTIVAL - CAS DI CULTURA BAN DJO DJO HAPPENING - PLAZA BETICO CARNAVALTEMPLATE - SAN NICOLAS CARNAVALVILLAGE

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“Hand on Your Heart” Aruba for Aruba



On Sunday, the 27th of March from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. the greatest fundraiser of 2011 will take place with a Mega RADIO – and TELETHON organized by Magic FM, ATV and FPNC at South Beach Center, in front of the entrance to Magic FM and Buster's Garage. Everyone can follow the event live on air via radio

and from noon it can be seen live on television. Many different activities will be organized to make the public enthusiastic to come, participate and especially to stay. Many bands and prominent figures will contribute in their own way. Ample information will be given about the various contributions in the coming weeks in

the media.

The goal of this event is to gain a minimum of 2000 monthly automatic transfers of AWG 25.00 for at least one year. This is what FPNC needs to support families on a monthly basis with food parcels. FPNC has registered 550 families in 2010. In reality there are at least 1200 families (4000 people) that every month have problems with making ends meet. Aruba is generous and gives often to important causes outside Aruba. Now is the time to organize something for our own community.

During the event there will be raffles of several prizes, great and small alike, for those who have already registered. From phones, to weekend stays, dining certificates and more. The grand prize is a car, the brandnew BYD (Build Your Dream), model FO, sponsored by Garage Cordia. The car will be raffled among all participants at the end of the day.

A project team of volunteers has been put together only to make this event a big success. Magic FM and ATV are also contributing solely on a volunteer basis. The logo has been designed pro bono by UR Designs and will be featured on t-shirts in different color on the day of the event.

A request has gone out to Aruba's greatest singers – at least 20 – for a fantastic effort,



The grand prize, a brandnew BYD (Build Your Dream), model FO, sponsored by Garage Cordia..



which will be publicized on time before for the radio – and telethon. Every artist is already enthusiastic about the production which is being worked on together with Robert Thiel.

In the coming weeks images of the poverty that exists in Aruba and the help that

FPNC gives to those less fortunate in our community will be shown under the direction of ATV.

The enthusiastic team of this project invites everyone in Aruba to come on March 27 to South Beach Center to participate in this event: Aruba for Aruba!

COMICS



Courtesy of

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PICKLES



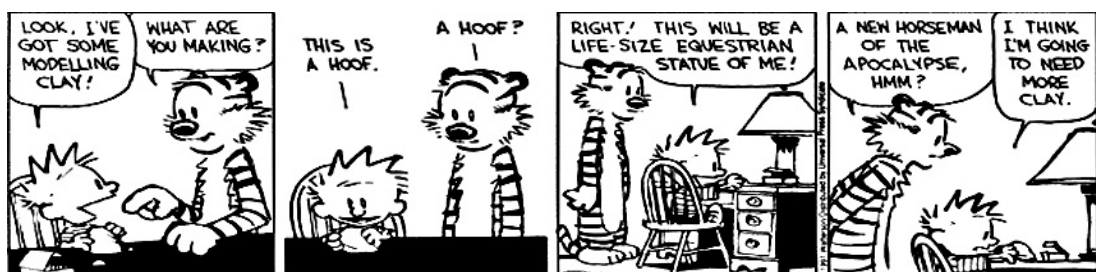
Courtesy of Chips Ahoy!

MOMMA



Courtesy of Planters

CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

DOUBLE TROUBLE

Not really double trouble, but double fun! Solve this puzzle as you would a regular crossword, EXCEPT place one, two, or three letters in each box. The number of letters in each answer is shown in parentheses after its clue.

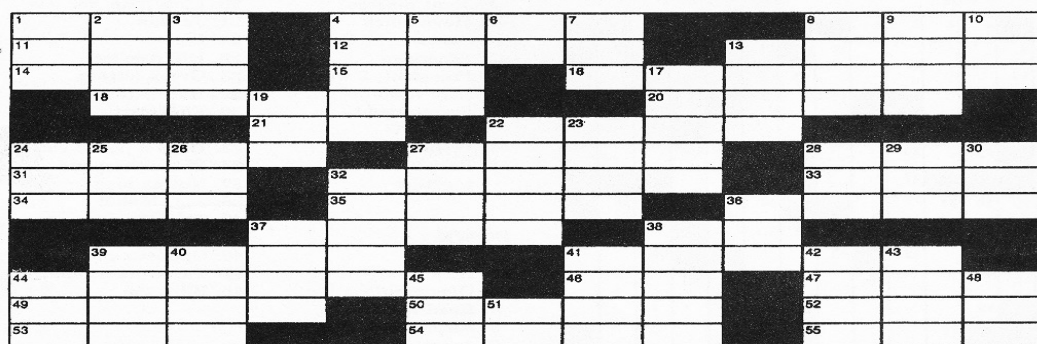
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ACROSS

1. Imperfection (4)
4. Thespian (5)
8. Network (4)
11. Spoken (4)
12. Window-shop (6)
13. Mountain path (5)
14. Staff (4)
15. Over (4)
16. Placate (7)
18. Bullfighter (7)
20. Express a thought (5)
21. Augury (4)
22. Passionate (6)
24. Watch out! (6)
27. Magnificent (5)
28. Minuscule (5)
31. Over again (4)
32. Cardigan (7)
33. Commerce (5)
34. Heavy cart (4)
35. Cream of society (5)
36. Streetcar (7)
37. Impecunious (5)
38. Fair (4)
39. Pie shell (5)
41. Hearsay (6)
44. Presage (7)
46. Mislaid (4)
47. Cloys (5)
49. Corner (5)
50. Wander aimlessly (6)
52. Canopy (4)
53. Charger (5)
54. Tired (6)
55. Depend (4)

DOWN

1. Dud (4)
2. Fragrance (5)
3. Billfold (6)
4. Belly (7)
5. Balladeer (7)
6. Tugs (4)
7. Harvest (4)
8. Wood pattern (5)
9. Elevate (5)
10. Unemployed (4)
13. Lukewarm (5)
17. Redcap (6)
19. Worship (5)
22. Pact (6)
23. Harangue (5)
24. Marching musicians (4)
25. Widemouthed jug (4)
26. Out (4)
27. Icy (5)
28. Promenade (6)
29. Constructed (4)
30. Back street (5)
32. Add sugar (7)
36. Has confidence in (6)
37. Snuggle (6)
38. Elbowed (7)
39. Hag (5)
40. Goaded (5)
41. Sphere (5)
42. Nun (6)
43. Jury group (5)
44. History (4)
45. Colorless (4)
48. Irascible (5)
51. Porridge (4)



Courtesy of



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CAS MARIE
Alzheimer's Day
Care Center
Tel: 5696910

Important
Telephone
Numbers

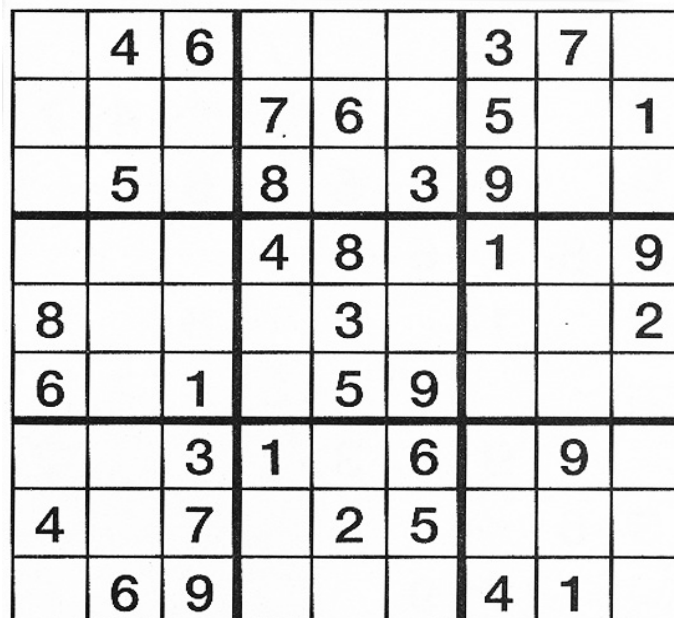
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Horacio Oduber Hospital
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TAXI
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In Oranjestad:
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

S	L	T	8	L	E	6	9	Z
E	8	9	5	Z	6	Z	L	T
Z	6	Z	9	T	L	E	8	9
T	E	8	6	9	Z	L	Z	9
Z	9	Z	L	E	9	T	6	8
6	9	L	Z	8	T	9	Z	E
9	T	6	E	L	8	Z	9	Z
L	Z	9	T	9	Z	8	E	6
8	Z	E	Z	6	9	9	T	L

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

BRIEFS:

British Gas owner Centrica signs major Qatar deal:

LONDON (AFP) – Energy provider Centrica, which owns British Gas, announced it had signed a massive deal worth £2 billion for natural gas supplies from Qatar.

The contract with Qatargas, announced during an official visit to Qatar by British Prime Minister David Cameron, will see Centrica supply 2.4 million tonnes a year over three years to Britain.

Centrica said it would "create a unique strategic relationship with the world's number one LNG (liquefied natural gas) exporter."

Cameron added in the statement: "This important agreement is good for Britain, good for our energy security, good for jobs, and good for economic growth."

=====

US existing-home sales rise above year-ago pace:

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Sales of previously owned homes in the United States rose for the third straight month in January at a pace topping year-ago levels, a key trade group reported.

The National Association of Realtors said existing-home sales rose 2.7 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.36 million in January.

The sales rate over the past three months "is now above year-ago levels," the NAR said.

Most analysts had expected existing-home sales to dip to 5.23 million. Sales were 5.3 percent higher than in January 2010.

The brisk sales of previously owned homes, the lion's share of the US housing market, were fueled by all-cash purchases as investors snatched up homes at bargain-basement prices more than three years after the market bubble collapsed.

=====

US oil hits \$100 a barrel amid Libya unrest:

NEW YORK (AFP) – US oil prices hit \$100 a barrel for the first time since 2008 yesterday, as an uprising in Libya roiled global energy markets.

New York's main oil contract crossed the symbolic threshold – last reached in October 2008 – following a run of \$100-plus prices for London's Brent.

=====

Miner Rio Tinto receives offer for talc division:

LONDON (AFP) – Global mining giant Rio Tinto said that it has received an offer for its talc business, Luzenac, from French industrial minerals group Imerys.

Luzenac is the world's biggest producer of talc, a mineral used in a vast array of products, including animal feed, cosmetics, fertilizers, paints, pharmaceuticals, plastics, roofing – and talcum powder.

"The successful sale of our global talc business would deliver good value to our shareholders and remains aligned with our strategic focus on large scale assets," said Rio's chief financial officer Guy Elliott in the statement.

=====

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Clashes in Athens at anti-austerity march



A policeman on fire is helped by a colleague during violent protests in central Athens yesterday.

ATHENS, Greece (AFP) – Police clashed with protestors in Athens on the sidelines of a large demonstration on the year's first general strike against the debt-hit Socialist government's gruelling austerity policies.

Riot officers blanketed the city's central Syntagma Square in tear gas after being pelted with stones and firebombs by masked youths who van-

dalised metro and bus stops and set fire to garbage bins.

Three officers were injured -- one after being set on fire by a Molotov cocktail -- and police detained 20 people for questioning, including five who were later formally arrested.

The heavy use of tear gas broke apart a demonstration that had rallied some 18,000 protesters in the capital ac-

Commerzbank to start repaying state aid

FRANKFURT, Germany (AFP) – Germany's second biggest bank, Commerzbank, said it rebounded strongly in 2010 from heavy losses caused by the global financial crisis and pledged to start paying back state aid.

The bank suffered badly in the crisis and was kept afloat with government aid of 16.2 billion euros (\$22.2 billion) in 2009.

Commerzbank might begin to pay back the funds without first undertaking a capital increase many thought would be needed.

Berlin has raised the pressure on the bank to begin repayment of the aid which saw the government take a holding of 25 percent plus one share in Commerzbank.

The bank reported a 2010 net profit of 1.43 billion euros, after a 2009 loss of 4.5 billion euros but according to German accounting standards, which are stricter than international ones, Commerzbank had a net loss of 1.2 billion euros last year.

That stemmed from heavy

charges on operations at its real-estate and public-sector finance unit Eurohypo, which must be restructured and sold by the end of 2014 in exchange for European Commission approval of the state aid.

Because of its German accounting loss, Commerzbank will not pay any tax, an outcome which Blessing said might shock some people given that under international standards, the bank had swung back into profit.

Meanwhile, the bank's 50,000 staff will receive a bonus of more than 440 million euros.

Blessing declined to say how much of that would be paid to workers at its investment bank unit.

He said that according to a new pay scheme set up last year, "a large part of the variable (bonus) pay will be blocked for three years," including 50 percent of that paid to investment bank staff.

For this year, it forecast an operating profit significantly higher than the 2010 figure.

cording to police, and over 60,000 according to union organisers.

At least 36,000 people according to police took part in protests held in Athens, Thessaloniki and the port of Piraeus to reject economic policies dictated by Greece's narrow bankruptcy rescue by the EU and the IMF last year.

"Nobody believes in the government and in the (austerity) plan," said Yiannis Alabanis, a computer technician joining the protest.

The Socialist government of George Papandreou has slashed salaries and pensions, hiked taxes and is pursuing a sweeping overhaul of the inefficient Greek state sector that has eaten up billions of euros over decades.

This month it announced that it would also lease state assets worth 50 billion euros (\$68 billion) over the next five years to reduce a debt mountain of over 300 billion euros.

The authorities had mobilised some 5,000 police in Athens for the street protests, bringing in reinforcements from neighbouring towns.

Demonstrations in Greece are routinely marred by violence and vandalism. Three people died last year when a bank branch was firebombed.

Another seven general strikes and waves of protests were held in Greece last year against the austerity cuts imposed in return for a 110-billion-euro rescue loan from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund.

The cuts have pushed Greece into a deepening recession with many analysts doubting whether its ailing economy can keep up with its loan obligations.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



The Aruban Iguana (yuana crioyo)



Of all the reptiles running through the hot and dry sand looking for shelter in among trees and cacti, the iguana is the most remarkable. A fully-grown male can reach a length of 2 meters including his tail. However, size does not detract from speed when the iguana senses danger.

Should an iguana sense danger, its initial reaction is to change color, then it tries to find a place where it can camouflage better and blend in with its surroundings. Often its ideal place is hiding in a tree. Still sensing trouble, it peeks gingerly with one eye to see what threat is causing it to hide. Once the iguana notices that it has been detected, the reptile has no other choice than to fall to the ground and run as fast as possible. Iguana's are surprisingly fast - they raise their bodies off the ground with their legs, and sprint off at an impressive pace, almost seeming to be running on tiptoe.

An adult iguana's color normally is a grayish green, while a young iguana is a bright neon green, which can become darker as soon as it feels threatened.

The iguana's food of choice are green leaves and certain fruits and they have the ability to find the leaves with a higher nutritional content. The female

iguana lays her eggs in a hole that she excavated herself.

It's a shame that these precious animals are still being hunted today. They are mostly relished in soups. A popular notion is that iguana soup gives strength and virility. This comes from the belief that males have two penises (actu-



ally it is one split in two). Some people therefore believe that the iguana is a fountain of strength and potency. It has even been claimed that iguana soup helped a wheel-chaired man to walk again.

In 1995 a prohibition to kill iguanas was established, out of fear that the local population of these animals was being wiped out. For example, any restaurant found with iguana in their menu receives a fine of 500 to 3000 florins, and can face being shut down. This initiative has helped, and although iguanas are still sought after, it is on a lower scale.

Ellioti's offers fine Italian cuisine and cozy island ambiance



Chef Jeffrey Elliot

Since opening in May of 2009, Ellioti's, located adjacent to the Costa Linda parking lot, has established itself as one of the most popular restaurants in the "low-rise" area. Owner Adrianna Sanchez has paid a lot of attention to detail and personally presides over her domain with a welcoming smile and a sincere concern for the satisfaction of her patrons.

The eatery is named for Chef Jeffrey Elliot, who was instrumental in establishing one of Aruba's original and most popular Italian restaurants of days past, Valentino's. He has brought his deft hand to this charming new location, offering a diversity of dishes which has earned it high praise on a number of Internet review sites such as Tripadvisor and restaurantsaruba.com.

"A hidden jewel" effuses one enthusiastic customer, "the best Shrimp Fra Diabolo I have ever had!" Another reviewer on Tripadvisor credits Ellioti's with "the best Fettucine Carbonara that I've ever had - and I've eaten at a lot of New York area Italian restaurants."

Ellioti's offers al fresco dining on their charming terrace or air-conditioned comfort in the dining room with the ambiance of a cozy Italian home. Fresh homemade pasta at extremely reasonable prices is their specialty, along with authentic Italian treatment of steak, seafood and fowl.

Three nights a week the restaurant features live music from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.; every Tuesday enjoy piano accompaniment to your meal, on Saturdays Gerardo will enchant you with his gentle guitar.

If you enjoy a social evening with friends and good conversation with your meal, Ellioti's extremely tranquil setting is the perfect place to savor fine food and company.

Open from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. six days a week, closed on Sunday.

It is recommended you call 588-7329 or 588 7339 to make reservations.



Adrianna and staff



Saturdays feature Gerardo on the guitar



Berlusconi's 'Ruby' expected at Vienna Opera Ball



Ruby "the heart stealer," the young Moroccan who sparked an investigation into Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi for allegedly paying for sex with a minor

VIENNA, Austria (AFP) — "Ruby", the young woman at the heart of a sex scandal involving Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, will attend this year's Vienna Opera Ball, entrepreneur Richard Lugner announced.

"We have just signed the contract," said the Austrian, who notoriously invites a starlet to accompany him to the ball every year.

In recent years, the 78-year-old, who briefly starred in his own reality television show, secured the company of British tabloid darling Katie Price, Baywatch stars Pamela Anderson and Carmen Electra, striptease queen Dita von Teese, and US socialite Paris Hilton.

This year however, Austrian tabloids chronicled his failure to get his first two choices as guests before picking US actress Bo Derek, whom he then dropped after she apparently made too many demands.

If all goes according to plan, Moroccan-born pole

dancer Karima El Mahroug, nicknamed "Ruby the Heart Stealer," will now join Lugner in his loge alongside former "Dallas" actor Larry Hagman.

Opera Ball organiser Desiree Treichl-Stuergkh however has already hit out at Lugner's latest guest.

"This is the biggest embarrassment that Mr. Lugner has ever made. It's sad, humiliating and disrespectful," she said, threatening to cancel his loge next year.

As part of her contract, "Ruby" will also have to take part in an autograph session ahead of the ball.

Sri Lanka bans violent cricket World Cup song

COLOMBO (AFP) — A World Cup song which carries threats against defending champions Australia as well as earthquake-hit New Zealand has been banned on orders of the Sri Lankan president.

The song warns that Ricky Ponting's Australians will end up as bird food while New Zealanders, still reeling from the Christchurch quake, could have their jaws broken.

President Mahinda Rajapakse heard the Sinhalese and Tamil mixed song and wanted it taken off all state-run radio and television channels, an official close to the president told AFP. He also censured sports authorities for allowing the "insulting" lyrics.

"The president was appalled that the song was allowed in the first place," the official said. "He felt the song was in poor taste. What he

Designers vie to showcase wares on Oscars catwalk

LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) — Fashion fans are in a frenzy as Hollywood counts down to the Oscars, with designers and jewelers vying to provide the gorgeous gowns and fabulous gems on the red carpet next.

Often referred to as the most famous runway in the world, the Academy Awards show offers fashion houses an unparalleled opportunity to showcase their most spectacular creations to hundreds of millions of television viewers worldwide.

The priceless publicity, and unspoken celebrity endorsements, can also influence mainstream fashion trends for seasons to come -- with an impact, eventually, on the high street.

The timeless allure of a silver or platinum beaded gown has long been a popular choice, and Sandra Bullock, last year's winner of the Best Actress award, chose a spectacular form-fitting gown in silvery tones by Marchesa.

Helen Mirren followed in a silver Badgley Mischka, Kate Winslet in a platinum Yves St. Laurent and Cameron Diaz in a strapless oyster Oscar de la Renta gown with metallic ribbon and gold embroidery.

In previous years both younger actresses like Anne Hathaway (Armani Prive 2009) and Jessica Biel (Prada 2009), and more established stars including Julianne



Nicole Kidman (2007) in a tomato red Balenciaga.

Moore (Calvin Klein 2010) have opted for gold and silver gowns.

Nothing speaks of class and a classic sense of style more than vintage couture: Julia Roberts wore a memorable black and white vintage Valentino gown when she won best actress for "Erin Brockovich" a decade ago.

Five years later Reese Witherspoon celebrated winning best actress in 2006 with

vintage Dior couture, a fairy-tale creation of beaded silver tulle embellished with spun gold thread, which she bought in Paris.

Of this year's nominees, perhaps only Michelle Williams, nominated for her role in "Blue Valentine," could be persuaded to take this route.

Some say Helena Bonham Carter was born for vintage couture, but the quirky British actress is known for a more eccentric and individual look: she always wears Vivienne Westwood with a great deal of panache.

The leading contenders for Best Actress, Natalie Portman for her role in "Black Swan" and Annette Bening for "The Kids Are Alright," each have their own style.

Bening almost invariably wears black Armani; a simple tuxedo or a slightly more elaborate creation, such as the strapless long-sleeved fishtail gown, this time Armani Prive, she chose to wear to the 2005 Oscars.

The very pregnant Portman -- who met her husband-to-be on the set of "Black Swan" -- may decide to stick with cult label Rodarte, which created some of the costume designs for the ballet thriller's "Swan Lake" scenes.

However, she is also a fan of celebrity favorite Lanvin, and now that she is the new face of Christian Dior, there is a good chance she'll opt for a classic custom Dior gown.

Nicole Kidman -- an enviable figure, tall and slender with porcelain skin, light auburn hair and a classically proportioned face -- rarely makes fashion faux pas.



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Troubled Pakistan win World Cup opener



Shahid Afridi, right, and Abdur Rehman congratulate their fielder Umar Akmal, center, for the dismissal of Kenya's Seren Waters, unseen, during the ICC Cricket World Cup match between Kenya and Pakistan in Hambantota.

NEW DELHI (AFP) - Mercurial Pakistan got their World Cup bid off to a flying start on Wednesday, winning their first competitive match since lengthy bans were handed out to three of their top players.

Pakistan, who lost key players Salman Butt, Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Aamer after the spot-fixing scandal that rocked world cricket, opened their campaign against lowly Kenya in Hambantota, Sri Lanka.

The 1992 world champions racked up an imposing 317 for seven, helped by four half-centuries and an astonishing tally of 46 extras served up by the wayward Kenyan bowlers.

Kenya's reply was insipid as they slumped to 112 all out, with Pakistan skipper Shahid Afridi taking five wickets for 16 runs, to crash to a humiliating 205-run defeat following a 10-wicket loss to New Zealand.

"It was a good start but I think the next game (against Sri Lanka) is very important for us. I think it will become harder. I think we learned a lot of things from here," Afridi said.

Pakistan was originally slated as one of the World Cup host nations but a militant attack on the Sri Lankan team bus in 2009 -- which killed eight people and wounded seven visiting players and their assistant coach, saw it lose those rights.

No international side has toured the militancy-hit country since, making them the nomads of international cricket, forced to play on neutral venues such as in the United Arab Emirates.

But Pakistan's cricketing

isolation could end in October if Sri Lanka agree to tour the troubled country.

Sri Lankan officials said Wednesday they were in talks with the International Cricket Council's Pakistan Task Team (PTT) to explore the possibilities.

"We are still discussing the option with the ICC and with all the other board members," said Sri Lanka Cricket chairman Somachandra de Silva.

"There are still some security concerns in Pakistan but if things improve, and Pakistan is a brotherly nation, we can consider it -- all depends on the ICC's clearance," he said.

Sri Lanka are scheduled to tour Pakistan in October this year under the Future Tests Programme.

According to reports in the Pakistani media, the governments of both countries are already in talks to hold the series in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Graeme Smith is determined to end his reign as South Africa's one-day captain in a blaze of glory by leading the Proteas to a first World Cup triumph.

Smith, who will carry on as Test skipper, insisted there was no question of going back on his decision to relinquish a job he has held since succeeding Shaun Pollock after the ill-fated 2003 World Cup.

"It's my opportunity to lead the team and leave it all out here," said the 30-year-old, ahead of his team's opening Group B clash against the West Indies in New Delhi on Thursday.

West Indies captain Darren Sammy said his team's miserable 11-match losing streak against South Africa

would mean nothing when the sides meet.

The West Indies are on a woeful run of form, having not defeated a Test side in a one-day international since June 2009 and slipping to a dismal eighth in the rankings.

"We are aware that we have a lot to play for here," said Sammy ahead of the match at the Feroz Shah Kotla ground.

"If we play to our full potential and take it step by step, who knows what could happen? We just have to believe in our ability and go out and execute our plans. It does not matter if you are number one or number nine."

Australia skipper Ricky Ponting was reprimanded by the ICC after he smashed a dressing room television set after he was run out during a 91-run victory over Zimbabwe.

The ICC said Ponting had accepted the charge.

Germany ready to host women's

BERLIN (AFP) - Theo Zwanziger, the president of the German Football Federation (DFB), said Wednesday Germany is ready to host the women's World Cup in June with half a million tickets already sold.

Germany, bidding to win their third consecutive world crown, kick off the three-week long tournament against Canada at Berlin's Olympic Stadium on June 26 with the final to be held in Frankfurt on July 17.

"All together, the planning is coming along well," said Zwanziger.

"The basic structure for the tournament is already laid out.

"We are very, very well prepared."

Up until now 515,000 tickets have been sold for the tournament's 32 games and the opening match is expected to sell out the 74,228-capacity Olympic Stadium in the capital city.

"Once we sell between 630,000 to 650,000, then we will have reached the break-even point and we will achieve that," said Zwanziger.

The DFB boss has said Germany are ready to host a 16-team tournament, but warned against comparing the event to the men's world cup of 2006, which was on a far grander scale.



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Wozniacki, Zvonareva survive seed cull in Qatar



DOHA (AFP) - Caroline Wozniacki and Vera Zvonareva stayed on course for a possible title clash after they survived the cull of seeded players at the 721,000-dollar event here on Wednesday.

World number one and top seed Wozniacki posted a 6-3, 6-2 win over Russian Nadia Petrova in the second round on a day when three seeded players crashed out, while the second seeded Zvonareva breezed past Slovakian Dominika Cibulkova 6-1, 6-2.

Serbian Jelena Jankovic, the fifth seed, also advanced to the last eight stage dispatching Indian star Sania Mirza 6-0, 6-1 on a day of one-sided matches.

Wozniacki gave local organisers something to cheer about with a commanding display at the Khalifa Tennis and Squash Complex Centre court to set up a quarter-final clash with Italian Flavia Pennetta.

The Dane, who won the Dubai Open on Sunday and was given a first round bye in Qatar, hardly showed any signs of slowing down after a

two-day rest as she gave 2006 winner Petrova, without a title since Quebec City in 2008, a real workout.

"It's great to start off with a win and continue with my good form after Dubai," the Dane said.

"Nadia is a very experienced player who has won before in Qatar, so it was particularly pleasing," added Wozniacki, who had one break in the first set and three in the second.

Earlier, the third seeded Francesca Schiavone, the fourth seeded Li Na and the eighth seeded Shahar Peer all stumbled out after suffering crushing defeats.

Italian Schiavone became the biggest casualty yet at the tournament when she was ousted by China's Peng Shuai 7-5, 6-3, while Li fared even more badly losing 6-2, 6-1 to Czech Klara Zakopalova.

The eighth-seeded Peer, who had beaten two-time Grand Slam champion Svetlana Kuznetsova on Tuesday, was thrashed by Frenchwoman Marion Bartoli 6-1, 6-0.

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Anthony signs deal with Knicks

NEW YORK (AFP) — Carmelo Anthony's trade from the Denver Nuggets to the New York Knicks has sunk in, ending a seven-month saga about where the flamboyant playmaker would finish the NBA season.

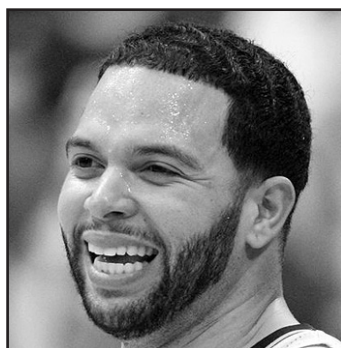
Two days before the NBA trade deadline, the 26-year-old forward who helped the Americans win gold at the Beijing Olympics was sent to New York in a 12-player deal that will unite him with another NBA star in Amare Stoudemire.

Denver completed a three-team swap with the Knicks on Tuesday night. The Minnesota Timberwolves also were involved in the trade, which couldn't be finalized until Anthony signed a three-year, \$65 million contract extension with the Nuggets.

"It's what he wants. It's what I wanted, to come to New York and play on the big stage," Stoudemire said. "He has the same type of swagger. This is what he wants and he can handle it. We're going to do it together."

Anthony ranks sixth in the

Nets swing deal with Jazz for Williams: report



Deron Williams

EAST RUTHERFORD, (AFP) — After losing to rival New York in a bid for playmaker Carmelo Anthony, the New Jersey Nets reportedly

NBA with 25.2 points a game. He has also averaged 7.6 rebounds and 2.8 assists a game this season for the Nuggets, where he has played for his entire career since joining the NBA as the third overall pick in the 2003 NBA Draft.

Anthony, guards Chauncey Billups and Anthony Carter, forward Renaldo Balkman and center Shelden Williams were sent to the Knicks in exchange for forwards Danilo Gallinari of Italy and Wilson Chandler, guard Raymond Felton, Russian center Timofey Mozgov and \$3 million.

The Knicks also sent the Nuggets a first-round pick in the 2014 NBA Draft and second-round selections in the 2012 and 2013 NBA Drafts, both of which originally belonged to the Golden State Warriors.

In a related deal to cope with salary cap issues, the Knicks sent center Eddy Curry, forward Anthony Randolph and \$3 million to Minnesota for swingman Corey Brewer.

have made a deal to obtain star point guard Deron Williams from the Utah Jazz.

The Record newspaper of New Jersey, citing unnamed sources, reported Wednesday that the Nets will send Devin Harris, teen Derrick Favors and a pair of first-round NBA Draft choices to the Jazz in exchange for Williams.

Williams, 26, is averaging 21.3 points and ranks third in the NBA with 9.7 assists a game. He notably had a confrontation with former Jazz coach Jerry Sloan one day before he resigned two weeks ago after 23 years in the job.

Poulter's title defence gets sinking feeling



MARANA (AFP) — Ian Poulter's title defense was over before the sun had barely passed the yardarm at the World Golf Championships Match Play Championship on Wednesday.

The Englishman was the second player eliminated from the 64-man event, outlasted by American Ryder Cup star Stewart Cink, who won 1-up at the 19th hole on a delightful winter's day at the Dove Mountain course.

Cink - who was the United States star performer in their agonising Ryder Cup defeat by Europe last year - sank a five-footer at the 18th to stay alive before the 2009 British Open champion set up his victory by hitting his approach shot to 3-feet at the next.

Poulter, the 12th seed overall, was surprised to be sent out in the opening match at the crack of dawn, which struck some as a bit of an insult.

However, he would not have been surprised by the tough match he had against Cink, the losing finalist in 2008.

Earlier, Englishman Luke Donald became the first player to advance to the final 32, hammering hapless American Charley Hoffman

6 and 5.

Donald speculated that Hoffman might be overgolfed after a busy early season schedule. But Donald certainly hasn't been playing too much, because this is just his second tournament of the year.

"That's the longest off-season I've had for seven or eight years," he said. "This year I decided to try something different, spend a little bit more time at home with my new daughter, put the clubs away for more of an extended period."

American J.B. Holmes became the third player to advance to the second round, beating Colombian Camilo Villegas 4 and 2. Holmes only got into the event when injured South African Tim Clark withdrew on the eve of the tournament.

South African Ernie Els won a hard fought match a few minutes later, beating American Jeff Overton 1-up at the first extra hole.

Most of the top seeds had late tee times, including No. 1 Lee Westwood and No. 3 Tiger Woods.



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Djokovic has to dig deep in defence

DUBAI (AFP) - Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic had a brief scare and was forced to dig unexpectedly deep before reaching the quarter-finals in defence of his Dubai Open title here on Wednesday.

The second-seeded champion was outplayed in the second set by Feliciano Lopez, a former runner-up here, and was within a point of going 3-4 down in the final set during a resourceful 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 victory.

It was the best match of the tournament, with both men willing to come forward and play rallies from the forecourt, which created a kind of the variety the modern game sometimes lacks.

The quality of Lopez's play also inspired some fascinating exchanges from the back, forcing Djokovic to raise his level, and in particular increase the quality of his service returns, to avoid serious trouble.

"It was enjoyable, every minute we spent on the court was enjoyable," said Djokovic, whose most impressive qualities were how immediately he forgot about his mistakes and how promptly he responded to sudden challenges.

"It was a great match, and a great atmosphere, and a pleasure to be playing in it here. I was surprised at how well he returned serve and how he made life difficult."

Asked if he had been panicking a little in the final set - even though he looked quite cool - Djokovic said: "I wasn't panicking because when I panic I break -- at least rackets, and I didn't break any rackets which is a big improvement tonight."

He next plays Florian Mayer, the world number 38 who is one of ten Germans in the top 100. He could have a semi-final with Tomas Berdych, the Wimbledon finalist from the Czech Republic who overcame Nikolay Davydenko, the ATP Tour 2009 year-end champion from Russia, by 6-3, 7-6 (7/5).

Djokovic is seeded for a final on Sunday with Roger Federer, the four times former champion whom he beat in the Australian Open semi-finals but who has been going well here so far.

Federer followed a straight sets win over Somdev Devvarman of India with another over Marcel Granollers, the world number 53 from Spain, by 6-3, 6-4.

It was most notable for an over-the-shoulder passing shot winner from Federer, struck at least a second earlier than expected whilst running back full tilt for a lob.

Federer next plays Sergiy Stakhovsky, the Ukrainian who is capable of high quality hot streaks and who upset the eighth-seeded Ernests Gulbis 6-3, 5-7, 6-1.

Russia may 'send Olympic flame into space'

MOSCOW (AFP) - The Olympic flame that will travel the world before reaching the Russian resort town of Sochi for the 2014 Winter Olympics may also pay a brief visit to space, a top official said Wednesday.

An Olympic visit to the International Space Station is

an "interesting" idea that requires further study, news agencies quoted the deputy head of Russia's Federal Space Agency as saying.

"It is not a bad idea," Vitaly Davydov said. "It is theoretically possible."

The space official admitted that open flames were not

allowed on board the international space lab, which is manned by US, Russian and various other astronauts.

But he said that his agency was open to ideas from Russia officials if they do decide to send the torch and flame to space.

Russia has been pulling

out all the stops since winning the 2014 Games, a prestige event that the Black Sea resort town won against all the odds on the back of a personal lobbying effort from former president Vladimir Putin.

The Games have been estimated to cost about 31 bil-

lion dollars.

The Olympic torch rally traditionally spans the world before reaching the host city.

Davydov said Wednesday tradition prevented Russia from taking the novel step of lighting the torch in space from sunbeams.

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